



# THE BLUE LIGHT



THE HONORABLE BOB RILEY  
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Protective Services Division

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS  
Service Division



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# ACJTC BREAKS NEW GROUND

*New, state-of-the-art training facility officially under construction.*

**G**round-breaking ceremonies for a new Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center facility were held March 13 on the campus of Wallace Community College in Selma. Gov. Bob Riley was joined



for the ground-breaking by representatives of Public Safety, Corrections and state and local officials.

Projected to be completed in the summer of 2010, the new, state-of-the-art facility, will comprise approximately 100,000 square feet and include two dormitories, two classroom buildings, a cafeteria, and a gymnasium. This new facility will replace the existing facility at Craig Field, constructed in 1940. The ACJTC provides training for new state troopers, police recruits and correctional officers, as well as in-service, tactical and other specialized law enforcement training.

“Training is key to professionalism in law enforcement,” said Col. J. Christopher Murphy. “Once completed, this new training academy will support and enhance our commitment to providing the highest level of training for our troopers and all other DPS staff members.”

Riley said, “This new facility will bring improved training and housing for new recruits within both the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Corrections. It will







provide a positive environment to mold and produce the very best state troopers and correctional officers for the state of Alabama.”

Murphy thanked Dr. James Mitchell, president of Wallace Community College-Selma, for hosting the new training center and also for serving as a valuable educational partner with DPS and law enforcement throughout Alabama. Murphy cited the college’s innovative online training currently available to troopers and other law enforcement officers, not only in advancing them in their professions, but also in allowing them to earn college credits towards a degree.

Mitchell said, “I am very excited and looking forward to a positive collaboration between the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Corrections and WCCS.”

The state is leasing the new training center site from WCCS, and financing for the project is being provided through the Public School and College Authority. The Montgomery architectural firm, Seay, Seay, & Litchfield, designed the new facility.

“I told the architects I want this ‘wow’ factor, when you go in, you go, ‘wow, this is beautiful’,” said Murphy. “This facility will be beautiful, but not fluff.”

“The lights will work. The air conditioner will work. The heat will work. The water will work. The roofs won’t leak,” said Commissioner Richard Allen of the Department of Corrections. “It’ll be a modern facility that will make training better.”







# Surviving Samson

*DPS helps community  
restore normalcy following  
horrific tragedy.*

From the moment the Department of Public Safety received the earliest reports of a south Alabama gunman and multiple homicide victims, in their response to the emergencies, and throughout the ensuing investigation, DPS employees were on the job.

Minutes after learning of an armed assailant shooting people in Samson March 10, Alabama State Trooper Mike Gillis encountered the gunman traveling east on Alabama 52 in Geneva County. Despite taking fire, the trooper and officers from the Geneva sheriff and police departments, along with a Conservation officer, pursued and attempted to apprehend the gunman. Within 20 minutes, the assailant was dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, bringing to a close the single deadliest crime spree in recorded Alabama history and leaving investigators to determine what had happened and why.



With the death of the gunman, 28-year-old Michael Kenneth McLendon of Coffee County, Public Safety and other agencies turned their attention to multiple crime scenes stretching more than 20 miles through Geneva and Coffee counties. McLendon's 10 homicide victims included the wife and 18-month-old daughter of Geneva County Deputy Josh Myers, three other individuals in Samson, and five members of his own family. McLendon left six more individuals wounded, including Gillis and Geneva Police Chief Frankie Lindsey.

Public Safety led the investigation at the state level, with assistance from



local sheriff and police departments, district attorneys, other state agencies and federal agencies. DPS Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy praised the unprecedented unified response of law enforcement, as investigators worked virtually without rest.

The Director's Crisis Center at Headquarters was activated and staffed around the clock as first reports of the incidents were relayed to Montgomery, and the Mobile Command Post was deployed to the scene. A timeline of events was quickly established, thanks to the exceptional investigative work of officers at the crime scenes. As the investigation progressed, multiple news conferences and press briefings were held simultaneously



at Headquarters and in Geneva County, outlining the chain of events, answering questions from media representatives, and reassuring shocked south Alabama communities that the attacks had begun and concluded with a single gunman.

Through the work of the investigators, information that pointed to the gunman's motive was uncovered. ABI painstakingly pieced together a picture of McLendon, depressed and dissatisfied with his life. His dreams of becoming a Marine and a police officer had gone unfulfilled, he recently had quit his job, and he made a large purchase of ammunition and magazines the day before the homicides. Investigators also discovered a letter McLendon

left, describing how he killed his mother and his intentions of taking his own life. The letter also refers to ill feelings he harbored toward family members due to an internal dispute.

"Because the author of these events died by his own hands," said Murphy, "the evidence of this case becomes the ultimate witness. We look to this evidence to provide answers, and we now have a much clearer understanding of the events of that day."

Murphy praised the work of investigators for their timely, thorough and professional response. "Our investigators were able to quickly determine that there were no lingering threats to the community stemming from these horrific events," he said. "The communities of Kinston and Samson need a chance to grieve and mourn, but they also need a chance to move past these events, and that is what our investigators have made possible."





*Despite Ground-breaking,*

# Training in Full Swing at ACJTC

With the excitement of the ground-breaking of the new academy at Wallace Community College-Selma, it is easy to forget that March was also a busy month at the current ACJTC.

The 134th Basic Police School finished its final weeks of training in March, with graduation set for April 3. Among the class are two new Capitol Police officers, ready to transfer from the care of the academy to the Protective Services Division upon graduation.

Also having a busy month are the members of Trooper Class 2009-A.

Candidates received their uniforms March 9, and defensive driving at Talladega began March 16.

Also this month was Pressure Point Control Tactics training and TASER training.

“This really seems like a good class,” said Capt. Randy Byrd, ACJTC commander. “This group is both dedicated and motivated, and it’s those two ingredients, coupled with excellent training, that makes an Alabama state trooper.”

“These few weeks at the ACJTC represent some of the more memorable experiences at the academy,” said Lt. Keith Jackson. “However, there is also a reason behind this training. What’s great about training at Talladega Superspeedway is the vast amount of usable space allows us to set up a course that simulates real obstacles and road conditions troopers are likely to find on the highway.”

Trooper Class 2009-A will be formally welcomed to the ranks upon graduation July 10.



On Our Own Time:  
Brian's  
*Novel*  
Concept

Working out of the Montgomery Driver License Examining office, Examiner Brian Miller finds he has a story to tell.

Miller has been putting pen to paper and writing fiction as a hobby ever since he was a child. As an aspiring writer seeking a publisher, Miller smartly began looking for a marketable skill in his work. Being moved by Alabama's many historic sites, Miller seems to have finally found his own unique marketable skill by writing about places both well-known, and others that time seems to have forgotten.

Miller's short stories reflect this sentiment. "The Last Confession," an eerie tale of vanity and redemption, is symbolically set in the fictional town of Phoenix, Ala., a place based on the real-world abandoned town of Cahaba, the original capital of Alabama.



"The creative spark for me to write this story came from my visit to Cahaba when I was a 15-year-old boy," said Miller. "I encourage anyone who loves history or even just the allure of a real ghost town to visit this beautiful, quiet place."

The concept of literary tourism is not new. The Southern Literary Trail is a collaboration of 18 southern towns in Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia that celebrates classic southern writers inspired by their communities.

"With the economy slumping, we need to concentrate on ways to bolster our local economy," said Miller. "Alabama has a lot to offer in the realm of tourism. Even though my writing is classified as fiction, I am writing about real places, often with historical significance."

Miller is currently working on a story set in the Capitol Heights neighborhood in Montgomery.

"That neighborhood definitely isn't a tourist attraction, but for people interested in architecture, the neighborhood is worth a visit," Miller said. "Moreover, genuine tourist attractions, such as the Alabama Shakespeare Festival or Montgomery Riverwalk Stadium, are minutes away."

Thus, what started as a way for Miller to market his fiction to publishers is also a way to market our state to readers.

"The Last Confession," one of 10 short stories in the recently published anthology, "Southern Gothic Shorts," from PJM Publishing, marks the first time Miller has been published. The success with this story has encouraged Miller, so much that he also encourages other regional authors to write stories blending tourism with fiction.

"It is a concept that works, but a lot of writers don't even think of the tourism appeal of books," Miller said. "I really think that's a possibility other writers should explore."



# ICAC Investigation Leads to Mother's Arrest

*In this file photo, Traywick examines computer hardware while conducting a search of a residence as part of an ICAC investigation.*



**M**elissa Gray currently awaits trial, scheduled to begin in May, following a recent investigation involving both ABI's Internet Crimes Against Children unit and the Florida Attorney General's office, said Cpl. Spencer Traywick.

ABI agents made the arrest of the Chickasaw woman on federal child pornography charges after she allegedly made arrangements to provide two children for a sexual encounter with a Florida man she met online, according to Col. J. Christopher Murphy.

Gray was arrested at her residence and charged with one count of receiving, possessing or distributing child pornography. Agents had obtained federal search warrants issued by the U.S. Attorney's Office, and seized computers and other items from the residence.

ABI's CyberCrime Unit picked up the investigation after being contacted by agents with the Florida Attorney General's CyberCrime Unit. The Florida agents had developed information alleging that Gray had offered to provide a 7-year-old boy and 8-year-old girl for sexual encounters in an online conversation.

A Florida ICAC agent, posing as Gray's online contact, made arrangements with Gray to visit her at her home. Instead of the online contact from Florida, ABI agents arrived at Gray's residence to serve federal search warrants and place her under arrest. The Department of Human Resources responded to assume temporary custody of a 7-year-old boy at Gray's residence.

"This is a prime example of good detective work," said Traywick. "Thanks to Chuck McMillan of the Florida Attorney General's office, Cpl. Carl Radcliff, Tpr. Robert Thompson, and Saraland and Mobile police departments, we were able to arrest and charge Gray with these crimes."

Murphy said a major component of ABI's CyberCrime Unit is the Internet Crimes Against Children program. Through ICAC, the ABI seeks to detect sexual offenders who use the Internet to commit crimes against children. ICAC-trained officers with the ABI conduct online, undercover investigations and conduct forensic analysis of computers and other digital media seized in ICAC investigations.

ICAC is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.





*After receiving credentials, four new agents take their oath in the ABI conference room March 20.*

## *New Agent Training and Narcotics Training Bear Fruit for ABI*

Four new special agents received their credentials in a special ceremony at Headquarters March 20, highlighting the first of two new training programs designed by the Alabama Bureau of Investigation.

The new agents recently completed an intensive field-training program, focused on taking skilled officers, and transforming them into skilled investigators. With close monitoring from observing commanders and supervisors, the scenario-driven program presents agents with models based on real-world events.

“The Samson massacre is an excellent example of how we are needed to move in and stabilize panic,” ABI Chief Maj. Jerry Conner said. “Our training is designed to assure our agents can handle such scenarios.”

The second program, required of all agents, is an in-house narcotics training course designed to enhance ABI’s abilities in handling drug seizures, money seizures, and interviewing techniques in narcotics cases. The program was implemented in January and was created by Sgt. Joe Herman and Investigator Tony Calderaro.

“All lesson plan objectives and teaching materials have been developed by us, saving us considerable money,” said Conner. “This curriculum is no slouch, either. It’s taking us from generalists to specialists in narcotics handling. Thus far, our agents have a 100-percent passing rate.”

“These are tough programs we’ve created, and we are closely monitoring their progress,” Conner said. “I’m proud to say, so far, it’s paying off for us.”

“I appreciate ABI for designing these programs,” said Lt. Col. F.A. “Bubba” Bingham. “Credentials mean more when you have to earn them.”

“We are providing our agents with the advance knowledge to do their job well, and we sincerely believe that is why this agency is the best in the state,” said Conner.





# People You Know!

## *New Employees*

Demedrick Agnew	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Andrew Alexander	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Kevin Bell	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Joshua Boody	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Juddston Bowers	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Raymond Brothers	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Jeff Brown	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Jayson Coon	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Jason Cooper	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Gregory Corble	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Gary Daniel	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Brian English	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Robert Green	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Robert Hale	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Terry Head	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Daniel Jackson	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Jason Johnson	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
David Jones	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Anthony Lands	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Jeremy Lay	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Charles Lewis	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Colton Ludlam	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Keith Marbut	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Gregory Mayo	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Randy McBrayer	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Denise McCain	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Jason McCallister	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Samuel McHenry	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Thomas Nalls	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
John Odum	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Richard Oliver	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Dwayne O'Riley	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Anthony Peebles	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Robert Ping	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Kevin Price	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Phillip Schuler	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Joshua Schwegler	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Scott Sherrer	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Jacob Smith	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Brad Taylor	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Kenneth Wade	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Gary Wells	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Jason White	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Steve Wilson	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC
Larry Young	2.01.09	Trooper Trainee	ADM/ACJTC

## *Transfers*

David Fagan	2.16.09	Trooper	ABI/Identification
Joseph Parrish	2.16.09	Corporal	ABI/Investigative Operations
Timothy Pullin	3.01.09	Lieutenant	ABI/Identification
Andre Roper	2.16.09	Trooper	PS/Dignitary Protection
Rufus Washington	3.01.09	Lieutenant	DL/Region D Examining
Agatha Windsor	2.16.09	Captain	HP/Selma



# People You Know!

(Continued)

## *Resignations*

L'erin Carlis	2.18.09	ASA I	DL/Safety Responsibility
Sharita Logan	3.13.09	DL Examiner I	DL/Jacksonville
Constance Stephens	2.27.09	PCO I	HP/Huntsville

## *Retirements*

Johnice Danner	2.27.09	ASA II	HP/Montgomery
Rosa Garner	2.27.09	ASA I	DL/Reinstatement
Brian McGill	2.28.09	Sergeant	HP/Mobile

## FIRST QUARTER 2009 STATISTICS

After last year's trend-breaking year, troopers' aggressive highway enforcement continues to have a profound affect on crash statistics in 2009. Crashes and fatalities for the first three months of this year dip even lower than the first three months of 2008. Notably, last year saw the lowest fatality rate in 23 years, when there were 633 trooper-worked fatalities.

Thus far in 2009, Alabama has seen 129 trooper-worked fatalities. That figure compares with 146 fatalities year to date in 2008, 183 in 2007, 178 in 2006, and 176 in 2005.

There were 7,497 crashes reported in the first quarter of 2009. This number compares to 7,999 crashes for the same period in 2008, 8,435 crashes in 2007, 8,477 crashes in 2006, and 8,297 crashes in 2005.



	2009 YTD	Change	2008 YTD	2007 YTD	2006 YTD	2005 YTD
Fatalities	129	-11.6%	146	183	178	176
Crashes	7,497	-6.2%	7,999	8,435	8,477	8,297
Injuries	2,872	-11.1%	3,230	3,632	3,800	3,459



## *Director Commends Moreland, Civilian and Academy Troopers*

*Right, Lucas and Moreland  
congratulated for their efforts in  
subduing a disturbed adult. Below,  
(from left) Maj. James Lyons,  
Hosea, King, Capt. Randy Byrd,  
Fields and Bennett with Murphy.*



In two separate ceremonies this March, Col. J. Christopher Murphy commended both academy troopers and DL Examiner Anthony Moreland for exceptional service to the department.

Last December, an agitated adult autistic male, awaiting renewal of his Alabama identification card, created a disturbance in the Ozark driver license office. The individual quickly turned violent, and was posing a serious threat to himself and others in the office. Moreland stepped in, and was able to both calm and restrain the man. Jerry Lucas, a civilian, selflessly volunteered his assistance in resolving the altercation.

In a separate incident at the ACJTC, a wounded woman, desperate for help, sought refuge at the academy while running from an armed assailant. Sgt. John Fields immediately responded, disarming the pursuing gunman before he could further harm his victim or others.

In addition to Fields, also thanked from the academy staff are Cpls. Ed Bennett, Dwayne Hosea, and Terry King. Their dedication and attention to Alabama Police Academy Recruit Class 134 ensured that all members of the class qualified on firearms on their first attempt. Qualifying all members of a class on firearms in the first attempt is exceptionally rare. No trooper or basic police class in memory has equaled this feat.

Congratulations to all!





# Firearms In-Service hits the road, PT Testing held in Montgomery



*Traditionally held in Selma at the ACJTC, firearms in-service has recently gone on tour. In-service training dates were scheduled locally as a cost-saving measure.*

*Annual recertification began in Tuscaloosa Feb. 19-20, with Huntsville and Quad Cities following in March.*



*Also testing in March were Montgomery-area sworn personnel.*

*Annual PT testing was held March 11 at the track of Robert E. Lee High School.*

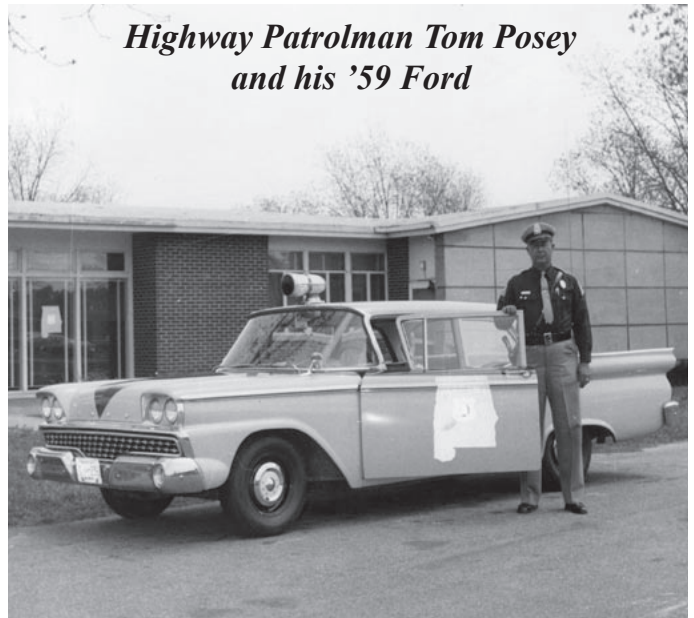
*Yearly testing ensures all sworn personnel are meeting or exceeding standards.*



# 75 Heading Towards

1935 - 2010

*Highway Patrolman Tom Posey  
and his '59 Ford*



*A snowy day at the former  
Public Safety Building.*



*...Providing escort to comedian Bob Hope*

*Alabama trooper cadets  
examining a map. The  
Alabama Highway Patrol  
created the cadet program  
under Col. Floyd H. Mann's  
direction in 1959 to allow  
young recruits to train for a  
future career as an Alabama  
Highway Patrol officer.*





## Aviation Completes Water Egress Training

Trooper pilots recently completed water egress training in Ozark. The training is designed to help pilots safely escape a helicopter in the event of an emergency landing, or “ditching,” in water.

“Because most of the weight in a helicopter is in the top of the aircraft,” said Tpr. Pilot Lee Hamilton, “it has a tendency to roll upside down. It is very disorienting.”

In addition to escape techniques, training also covered the use of portable breathing apparatus if immediate exit is difficult or impossible.

This was the first time such training has been completed by Alabama trooper pilots. Water egress training will be repeated annually.



## Cold Weather Brings a 'Flurry' of Snowmen Troopers to Alabama



## FUNDRAISER FISHING TOURNAMENT

Plans are under way for the first interdepartmental fishing tournament for current and retired employees of the Department of Public Safety, Corrections, and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. Portions of the proceeds of the May 16 tournament will go to Deputy Josh Myers from Geneva County, whose wife and 18-month-old child were shot and killed March 10 in Geneva. Deputy Myers' 4-month-old child was shot and wounded during the attack.

Blast-off will be at safe daylight on Cooter's Pond in Prattville, with weigh-in beginning at 3 p.m. For further information, please contact Lt. Karl Youngblood at (334) 567-5190 or [youngblood@wildblue.net](mailto:youngblood@wildblue.net). Mail registrations to 8877 Grier Road, Wetumpka, AL 36092.





*Alabama Department of*



*Public Safety*

**CONTRIBUTING:**

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*Capt. Charles Ward, PS*

*Lt. Clay Barnes, ABI*

*Lt. Jack Clark, HP*

*Tpr. John Reese, ADM*

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*Ryan Godfrey*

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

**Questions? Comments? Concerns?**

STAY IN TOUCH WITH *THE BLUE LIGHT*.

PLEASE E-MAIL ALL REQUESTS TO:

RYAN.GODFREY@DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

**RSA Criminal Justice Center**  
**Montgomery, Ala.**



To Whom it May Concern:

On March 19, I was travelling south along Interstate 65 with my wife. When we neared mile marker 109 that afternoon, we had a flat tire. Being middle-aged, we could have handled the process of changing the tire, but almost immediately, a super nice Alabama state trooper pulled over to assist. I was most grateful, because it was hot outside that afternoon, and it was difficult to lift my van with a cheap spare jack. I thought I would pass on some good news, because I believe small gestures go a long way!

Thanks again,  
Bob and Pat Nimmo

**On Your Calendar**

**Monday, April 27**

*Confederate Memorial Day*

**Monday, May 25**

*National Memorial Day*

**Monday, June 1**

*Jefferson Davis' Birthday*

**Friday, July 3**

*Independence Day (offices closed)*

**ACJTC TRAINING SCHEDULE**  
**APRIL '09**

Date	Event
April 1-3	Basic Police Session 134
1-17	ABC Training
1-31	Trooper Class 2009-A
3	Basic Police 134 Graduation
6-10	Driver License Training
9	Sudden Unexplained Infant Death
17-18	Trooper Reserve Training
19-24	SWAT Training